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Affairs and Resources, Department of  
Northern Development and Lands

# THIS IS THE ARCTIC

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CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND  
NATIONAL RESOURCES

Northern Administration and Lands Branch

# THIS IS THE ARCTIC

*Issued Under the Authority of*

**THE HONOURABLE ALVIN HAMILTON**

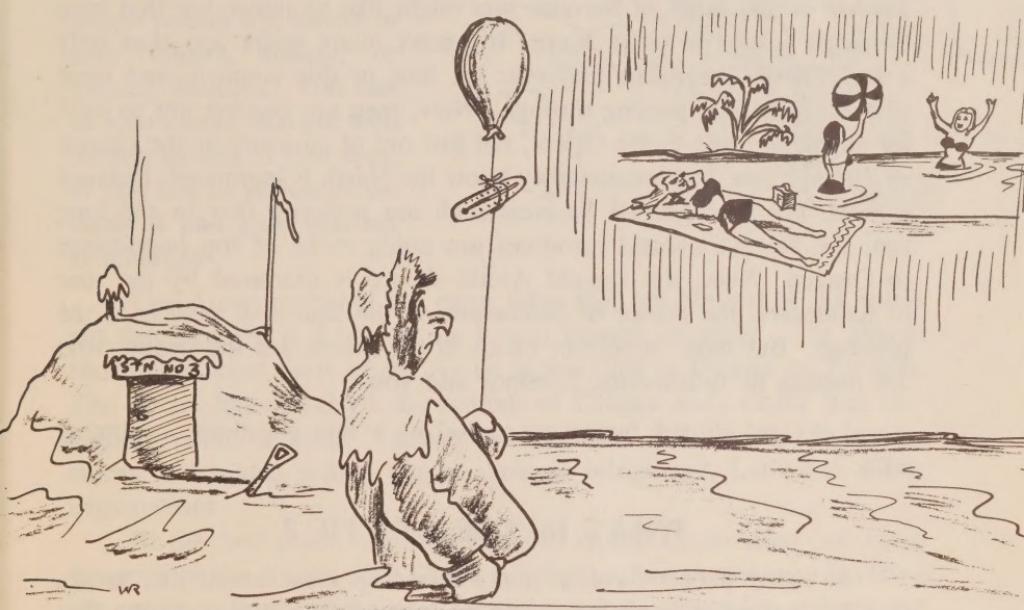
Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources

## C O N T E N T S

	PAGE
<b>WHAT IS THE ARCTIC ? .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Brother, Can You Spare The Time ? .....	6
What, No Trees ? .....	7
<b>HOW BIG IS IT ? .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>HOW COLD IS IT ? .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Who's For Tennis ? .....	10
A Summer Playground ? .....	12
<b>WHO DISCOVERED IT ? .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>WHO LIVES IN IT ? .....</b>	<b>15</b>
The Indians .....	16
The Eskimos .....	17
They're Good Party Types .....	19
Co-operation Is More Than A Word .....	20
Eskimo Sculpture .....	21
"Industrial Revolution" In The Arctic .....	22
The Eskimos' Three Basic Needs .....	23
<b>WHO CONTROLS IT ? .....</b>	<b>23</b>
How The North Is Governed .....	24
The Northern Service Officer .....	25
Law In The Territories .....	26
<b>WHAT GOOD IS IT ? .....</b>	<b>27</b>
Resources of The Territories .....	27
Mining .....	31
Transportation — The Big Problem .....	33
The Future .....	34
<b>WHAT TO DO ? .....</b>	<b>36</b>
How About Fishing ? .....	40
Glacial Left-Overs .....	40
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
I: Some Hints To The Wise .....	42
II: Profits and Laws .....	46
III: Yukon Territory: Laws .....	50
READING LIST .....	52

## THIS IS THE ARCTIC

This, then, is the Arctic, and if you feel slightly lost, don't worry; it's a natural reaction. The size of the country would intimidate a Texan, and its remoteness makes Montrealers moan for their favourite night-clubs. Adjusting yourself to life in the north can be tough, and it calls for the right approach. If you came to put up with privation for a pay check, why not reconsider?



You may be working at a DEW Line site, weather station, trading post, school, or mine. You may be just touring. In any case, remember how lucky you are. You are the one in a hundred living in Canada who ever sees the most fabulous part of the country. Less than one in a thousand Canadians live in the Arctic now. You're about to have a unique experience, the kind you'll be recounting (with suitable exaggerations) to your grandchildren on long evenings by an atomic fireplace. You came north with certain ready-made ideas about the

country. You thought the Arctic was rugged, and it is. But the Arctic has compensations for anyone with a normal share of curiosity who can learn to relax and enjoy it. This booklet is intended to help you do just that.

Life may be more interesting if you know something about the country: its government and laws, its history and geography, its climate, and its people. A look at the future is in order, because big things are happening here in the northern third of Canada. Looking out your window across miles of barrens, you might like to remember that here Canada's future is being born. It wasn't many years ago that only a handful of Europeans had ever set foot in this country, and most of them were just passing through. Now, men are coming not to look for an ocean route to the Orient, not just out of curiosity or the chance of gaining fame, but because they know the North is important. Defence is vital, but hard-headed business men are realizing that in the long run, the North's natural resources are going to be of top importance to Canada. Now, the age-old Arctic silence is shattered by the roar of bulldozers, the clatter of jackhammers, the squeal of pulleys at the pit-head. But most important of all in the North are the people who are making its future—the Eskimos and you.

Let's get started by asking ourselves a few questions, beginning with:

## WHAT IS THE ARCTIC ?

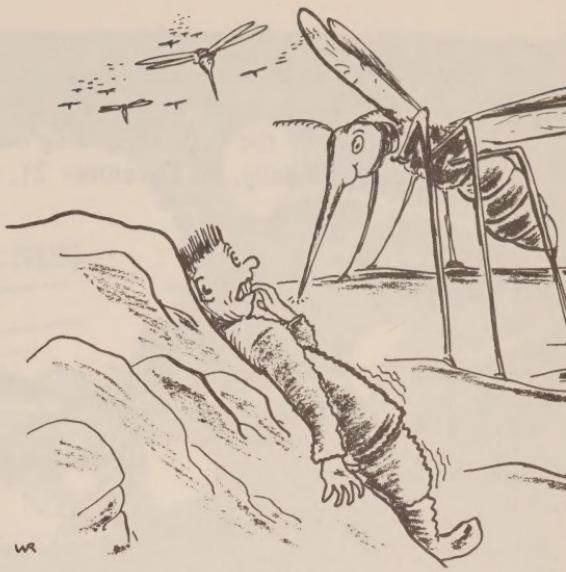
So many people have so many mixed-up ideas about the Arctic, that it is easiest to begin by saying what the Arctic is *not*. In the first place, it is not just the country north of the Arctic Circle. It is not a perpetually frozen waste where nothing grows. Even in winter, it is not buried under a blanket of snow yards deep. It is not always drab or colourless, and it was never lifeless. It is not dark all winter and sunny all summer. The reason the people of the Arctic have lived here for thousands of years is not that they don't have enough sense to move somewhere else. They live here because they like it. Most important of all, the Arctic is not just a million square miles of worthless real estate.

Enough of the dead-wood: here are a few facts. In the Arctic in summer you can be sunburned, or stung by a bee, or bitten by more mosquitoes than you ever saw in Kazabazua. You can go fishing or you can collect flowers, but you cannot collect poison ivy, thorns in your fingers, snakes, or bathing beauties. You can be kept awake all night with the sun shining in your eyes, or you can be philosophical about it and play baseball at midnight.

The Arctic probably has more lakes than all the rest of the world put together, yet it is one of the largest deserts on earth. The annual snowfall in most parts of the Arctic is less than in Ottawa or Toronto. The Arctic has one-third the rainfall of Ottawa and, what's less surprising, about a tenth Vancouver's rainfall. The Arctic is getting warmer. It's also getting bigger. Sounds intriguing? Let's find a few explanations.

In the first place, we said that the Arctic Circle does not mark the edge of the Arctic. The Circle is simply a line on the map marking the southern limits of the area around the Pole where for at least one day each year the sun doesn't rise, and for at least another day the sun doesn't set.

You might like to know why, so take a deep breath, and we'll tell you everything we know. As it revolves around the sun once a year, the earth also spins on its axis, which is tilted at a fixed angle and direction. Because of this, there is one point on its orbit, which it reaches on June 21, where the earth is in such a position in relation to the sun that the entire area north of the Circle has sunlight for 24 hours. (Are you still with us? Well, we're lost.) As the earth continues to travel



past this point in its orbit, the area of constant sunlight gradually shrinks northward. At last the lighted region is confined to the Pole itself, and as the earth moves on in its circular path, a shadow begins to grow around the Pole, expanding outward in all directions as winter progresses. Finally, on December 21, the area in shadow includes all

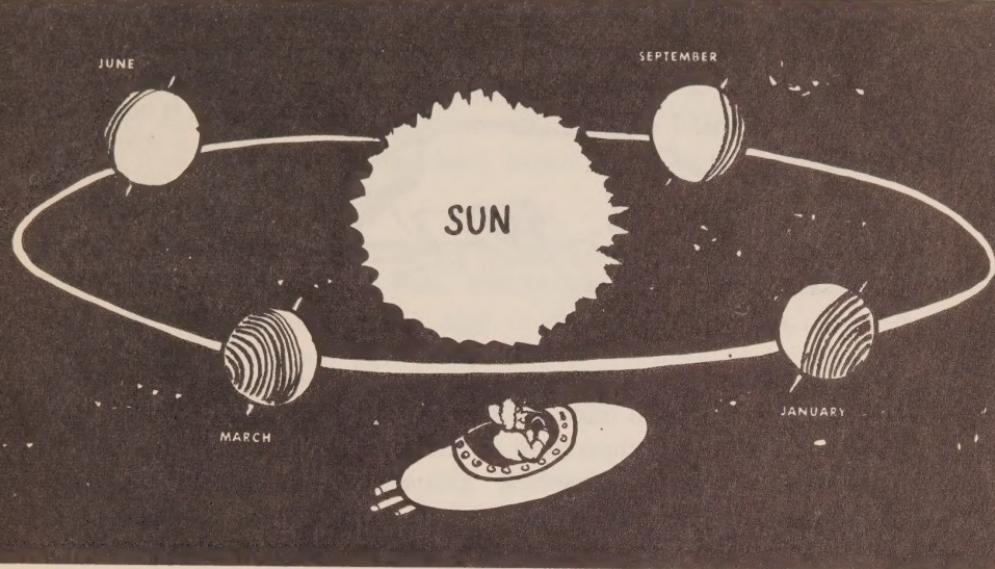


of the earth's surface north of the Arctic Circle. The sun disappears, together with the moon (or does it?\*). Then, of course, the area of constant night begins to shrink, and the process is repeated.

### **Brother, Can you Spare the Time ?**

By the way, you probably know that from the North Pole you can go in only one direction—south. If you are ever there with nothing better to do, try figuring out what time it is. The meridians of longitude all converge at the Pole, and as everybody knows, the world's time zones are marked by longitude. This can create no end of confusion if you want to be on time for an important date there. Since the meridians are closer together in the Arctic, passengers in an aircraft

\* The moon stays.



travelling from east to west rapidly gain huge quantities of time that can be used only by burning the candle at both ends. If they fly back east by a more southerly route, all the time they worked so hard to gain is lost, but more slowly. This is generally accepted as the explanation of why people in the Arctic get so much done in so little time, and people at the North Pole in no time at all.

### **What, No Trees ?**

A definition of the Arctic has nothing to do with time, or with sunless days or shadeless nights. The extent of the Arctic is marked by climate, and by the fact that trees do not grow there. The real boundary of the Arctic is the treeline. Beginning near the mouth of the Mackenzie River, the treeline runs southeast to Churchill, skirts the shores of Hudson Bay, loops northward across the Ungava region of Quebec, and bends southward again along the Labrador coast. Where it crosses the Mackenzie, the treeline is far north of the Arctic Circle; at Churchill,



it is hundreds of miles south. Usually, the edge of tree growth is not marked by a sharp line. Going north, the traveller sees that the trees become more and more stunted, and gradually disappear. But

isolated clumps of stunted trees may often be seen in sheltered valleys far north of the main limits of growth. Generally trees will not grow where the average temperature of the warmest month of the year is less than 50 degrees Fahrenheit. This means that the treeline is also a temperature line. A belt of land that borders the treeline on the south is called the sub-Arctic. This belt is several hundreds of miles wide. Really a transitional zone between the Arctic and the temperate regions, the sub-Arctic has many features of climate and geography similar to the Arctic. Together, the Arctic and sub-Arctic make up what we call the North.

## HOW BIG IS IT ?

Canadian territory above the treeline—the true Arctic—covers over a million square miles. The North—Arctic and sub-Arctic—is not so easily measured; it depends on where you draw the line. Defined in terms of climate, geography, and plant life, the North includes most of Labrador, a large area in Quebec, and even parts of Ontario, the Prairie Provinces, and British Columbia. If taken to mean the area of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, the North occupies the entire Canadian mainland above the sixtieth parallel and west of Hudson Bay, most of the islands in Hudson Bay, and all the islands above the mainland. Defined in this way, the North covers a million and a half square miles, or 40 per cent of Canada. It's big enough

to contain more than half the United States. One island in it, Ellesmere, is more than twice the size of England and Scotland combined, although it's not quite so crowded. Ellesmere's population is about 60, not counting walrus, muskoxen, or ice-worms. Victoria Island is not much smaller than Ellesmere. Baffin Island, largest in the Arctic Archipelago, is about the size of Manitoba.

The distances are tremendous. At the Arctic Circle you are still 1,600 miles from the North Pole. From Alert, on the northern tip of Ellesmere, to Churchill, on the edge of trees, is 1,700 miles. If you are in Aklavik and you have a friend in Fort Chimo, don't plan to visit him next Sunday. Fort Chimo (still in the Arctic) is 2,000 miles away.

And the North is still growing. New land is rising (very slowly) from the sea. On Banks Island, several former shorelines can be counted on the beaches, indicating that the land is emerging from the ocean. Eskimos have always lived on the very edge of the sea. In summer, they anchored the sides of their skin tents with stones, and since they never bothered to put the stones back in the autumn, these stone tent rings have remained for centuries. In many places, the tent rings are now hundreds of yards from the seashore. Since the Eskimos would never pitch their tents so far from the water (they are quite heavy), the water must have receded as the land rose.

Thousands of years ago, the country was covered with glaciers thousands of feet thick. The great weight of the glaciers pressed the land down, and now it is springing up again, like a sofa cushion when a rump is removed from it. Remains of the great glaciers can still be seen, particularly on Baffin and Ellesmere Islands. About forty per cent of Ellesmere is still covered with ice.



## HOW COLD IS IT ?

Voltaire once called Canada "a few acres of snow". Applied to the whole of Canada, this ranks among the all-time masterpieces of simultaneous understatement and overstatement, and only slightly less so when applied to the North. Voltaire may have been a genius, but he didn't know much about Canada.

It would be too much to ask the most tender tenderfoot to believe that the Arctic is not cold in winter. It's chilly, of course, but the coldest place in Canada is a long way from the Arctic; it's at Snag, in the southern Yukon. The Eskimos are *not* God's frozen people: many are cold, but few are frozen. Canada's driest air is in the polar regions, and that makes the temperatures seem a lot higher than they really are. But when low temperatures are combined with high winds, don't depend on an extra suit of long underwear to meet the situation.

Latitude isn't the only factor that decides climate, and the cold doesn't necessarily increase as you travel north. Mountains, valleys, plateaus, prevailing winds, and ocean currents play a big part in varying climate in the North, just as in any other part of the world. The average daily temperature in January at Resolute (latitude 74 degrees) is 29 degrees below zero. In Yellowknife, a banana-belt town 700 miles to the south, it's only three degrees milder. Winter in Aklavik is no colder than winter in Churchill, 600 miles further south. Average January temperature at Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon Territory, is actually warmer than at Winnipeg, just 70 miles north of the U.S. border. The main difference between Arctic and southern winters is in length. Winter lasts for eight or nine months.

## Who's for Tennis ?

Climate in summer is another story. Fort Smith, a sub-Arctic community on the Slave River, has had temperatures as high as 103 degrees (above zero, that is). Even in Windsor, far below the forty-ninth parallel and Canada's most southerly city, the thermometer has never registered 103. Of course, Windsor's average summer temperature is much warmer than Fort Smith's.



The average July temperature for Fort Smith is just about the same as for Edmonton (62 degrees). In Yellowknife, the July average is 60 degrees. That's about four degrees warmer than Aklavik, Canada's largest community above the Arctic Circle. Swimming and other traditional summer sports are popular near Yellowknife. Up in the High Arctic, people are inclined to other amusements, and it is said that no Eskimos are able to swim. Not that they couldn't find a place to learn if they really felt the urge, because daytime temperatures in the 70's are not uncommon even in the Arctic Islands, and for a short while the thousands of glacial lakes warm up rapidly. If your nerve and health are good you might like to take the plunge, being careful not to bump your head on any ice floes.

The length of Arctic summers depends on a lot of things, including your definition of summer. If taken to mean the length of time when streams and mosquitoes are unfrozen, summer ranges from a maximum of five months or more at places like Great Bear Lake to about two months in the higher islands of the Archipelago. The length of the growing season is another yardstick, and so is the period when almost

tropical temperatures occur at inland points. Where the summer sun strikes a dark, sheltered surface, and where there is no local reservoir of cold (a lake, bay, or ice-cap) to neutralize the sun's effect, snowballs don't stand a chance.

### A Summer Playground ?

The Arctic has been getting warmer. It's estimated that in some regions the climate has moderated at the rate of about one degree Fahrenheit in ten years. Walrus and white whales aren't travelling so far south as in the old days. Halibut and other fish are moving farther north. Glaciers are slowly melting. A few of the smaller glaciers have almost disappeared in the time since they were first seen by explorers. On the other hand, some glaciers are getting bigger, but that's probably because in the milder climate there is more rain and snow. Whether or not the Arctic will continue to warm up is another question, and it can't be answered for hundreds of years. But scientists say the world is still recovering from the last ice age. If so, the milder temperatures recorded in the past few years may indicate more than just a short term trend. Quite possibly there will be summer resorts on the Arctic Ocean one day, but don't rush to make your holiday reservations. It may take several thousand years.

If the Arctic does become temperate, or even tropical, it won't be the first time. There is plenty of evidence to show that once the North was warm. Coal is formed from the thick vegetation of prehistoric tropical swamps, and there are coal deposits on the Arctic coast. There are petrified tree stumps on Baffin Island's south shore, and fossilized shells of tropical sea creatures are found in the clay and gravel of the island's interior plains.

### WHO DISCOVERED IT ?

A lot of people have been here before you, and they weren't all Eskimos. In fact, the total number of visitors to the Arctic from other parts of the world, since the days of the first explorers, out-numbers the present Eskimo population.

The Vikings were probably the first Europeans to visit the Canadian Arctic. That was about 500 years before Columbus. At the close of the tourist season in 945 A.D., the Vikings went home, and things were rather quiet for the next 600 years. Then, in 1576, Martin Frobisher sailed from England, looking for the Northwest Passage to



China. He found Frobisher Bay instead, which was only fitting. He also found Eskimos. The Eskimos were as surprised as Frobisher, but they quickly recovered, and the five men he sent to hold peace talks with them never returned. Frobisher shanghaied an Eskimo and sailed for home in a huff. But the Eskimo died of a cold (in England, of course) soon after the ship docked.

During his second voyage in 1577, Frobisher found the Eskimos were still cool. There was a skirmish, and the Eskimos "chased them to their boats and hurt the general in the buttock with an arrow". But that was not the general's final humiliation. He tried his hand at gold mining on a third voyage to the bay, but the rocks he carried back to England turned out to be worthless. You can still see the remains of his diggings.

Many famous explorers were connected with the search for the Northwest Passage. John Davis, Henry Hudson, and William Baffin left their names on the map before the middle of the seventeenth century. After Baffin, no European entered the Arctic for 200 years, but in the nineteenth century there was re-awakened interest in the search for the Passage, beginning with the expeditions of John Ross and William Parry.

Overland exploration dates back to 1770, when Samuel Hearne trekked from the mouth of the Churchill River, on Hudson Bay, to the mouth of the Coppermine River, on the Arctic Ocean. In 1789, Alexander Mackenzie set out from Lake Athabasca, and on the day that the fall of the Bastille was marking the beginning of the French Revolution, he sighted the mouth of the river that bears his name. John Franklin explored many inland waters, and penetrated to Coronation Gulf in the Central Arctic. Following Franklin's disappearance in 1845, more than 40 search parties looked for him over a period of 50 years. It was one of the search parties, led by Robert M'Clure, that finally discovered the Northwest Passage in 1850. But the Passage was not navigated until 1905, when Roald Amundsen sailed as far west as the Alaskan coast.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, there was a general international race to reach the North Pole that lasted until 1909. In 1895, Nansen raised the Norwegian flag at 86 degrees 12 minutes north latitude. Six years later, Cagni, carrying the Italian colours, defeated Nansen's record by 22 minutes (of latitude). In 1905, Rear Admiral Peary hoisted the Stars and Stripes at 87 degrees 6 minutes. Four years later, Peary claimed to reach 89 degrees 57 minutes north latitude.

The experts are still arguing over that one. Since 1909, many men have flown over the Pole, and some have landed on it, but no man has ever walked to it from the mainland or the islands of Canada.

Scientists have carried on research in the Arctic since the turn of the century, and biologists, anthropologists, and geologists are still working to uncover the North's secrets. Traders and missionaries also have played a large part in opening the country.

## WHO LIVES IN IT?

If you haven't learned yet to love your own plot of tundra, you may answer: "Nobody. At least, not by choice".

But nothing could be farther from the truth. Indians live in the sub-Arctic, some 5,000 of them, and they are free to move south any time they choose. About 11,000 Eskimos live in the Arctic, and they wouldn't live anywhere else. More impressively, there are 14,000 people, neither Indian nor Eskimo, living in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Not many were born here, but more and more of them are becoming permanent residents by choice. Ask some of these "immigrants" to the North (from the RCMP constable patrolling a 1,000 mile Barrens beat to the Yellowknife housewife tending her hollyhocks) if they could be tempted back to the used-up air of southern cities. Surprisingly often, the answer is "no".



This doesn't mean that the new northerners have thrown aside all the luxuries of civilization in a "back to nature" movement. That isn't necessary now. Most of them have managed to take the essential paraphernalia for modern living with them, and a bit more. Citizens of towns like Yellowknife and Whitehorse live, like southern suburbanites, in neat frame houses with central heating, indoor plumbing, and electric refrigerators. Many of them have cars. In the Fort Smith district, which has no highways to the outside world, there are about 550 registered motor vehicles. It's not so long since Yellowknife had a total of two cars (when they were involved in a head-on collision, there were none), but now the look of the highways has changed, and 800 motor vehicles are registered at Yellowknife.

And the North is not populated just by trappers and hunters. There are commercial fishermen, riverboat captains, and truck drivers; miners, lumbermen and oilmen; stenographers, storekeepers, and real estate agents; nurses, doctors, and editors. They don't all venture into the High Arctic. Not many lumbermen are intrigued by the prospects of acquiring timber rights on Banks Island. But even far above the treeline occupations are varied, with prospecting, mining, trading, teaching, preaching, boat building, and carving in stone being a few that come readily to mind.

### **The Indians**

Even the Indians are beginning to turn from the traditional hunting and trapping economy; more and more they are working as miners, stevedores, and construction workers, particularly in summer. In winter, most of them still follow their trap lines. Trapping is a risky business, because the wildlife population fluctuates and so does the fur market.

The Indians of the Mackenzie Basin were nomadic hunters before and after the fur traders introduced trapping, and they have always

been accustomed to alternate periods of plenty and scarcity, depending on whether or not game was abundant. They depended chiefly on the caribou for food and for skins to make clothing and tents. If the migrating caribou did not appear when and where they were expected, the Indians were out of luck. These sub-Arctic people were never organized in large tribes like the Indians to the south. There was never enough game in one district to support a large tribe, so they travelled in small bands. Generally speaking, they were too preoccupied with finding food to develop anything but the simplest social or religious life.

The first Europeans brought whiskey and disease, but later the missionaries came to help and the Government doctors tackled the problem of health. With continued industrial expansion in the North, the Indians have a good chance for a sounder economy. As they wander less and settle down to wage employment more, government agencies have a better opportunity to improve both health and education.

Both the Indians and Eskimos of Canada belong to the Mongolian race, but they have physical and cultural differences which separate them into two distinct groups, or sub-races. The northern Indians feel at home in the forest, and they seldom go above the treeline. On the other hand, the Eskimos don't like to be fenced in. Preferring the Barrens to balsam, they stay away from trees. In fact, there are only three places in the North where the two peoples regularly meet; these are Aklavik on the Mackenzie Delta, and Churchill and Great Whale River on Hudson Bay.

### **The Eskimos**

The Eskimos are unique. No other race, having so little to work with, has accomplished so much. For thousands of years these remarkable people have managed to make a living, with only primitive implements, in a country where until recently Europeans with all their technical skills could scarcely exist for a season. More than that, the Eskimos found time and energy to develop a civilization and a pattern of living which is now having its influence worlds away. Make no mistake about it, in some ways the Eskimos are more civilized than we are, and always have been. They have no history of warfare what-

ever. Dishonesty is almost foreign to their nature, and they have developed community co-operation to a degree to which we often aspire but rarely attain. They can also teach the world some things about child upbringing.

Let's have a closer look at these amazing people.

Like the Indians, the Eskimos probably came from Asia. They crossed Bering Strait (possibly by a land bridge now disappeared), and settled along the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Nobody knows when they came, but they have been here for at least 2,000 years and probably longer. They may have been a sea people before they arrived. At any rate, with the exception of a few hundred who live inland west of Hudson Bay, the Eskimos have never wandered far from salt water.

The few inland Eskimos depend on the barren ground caribou for life. The rest have taken practically everything they needed from the sea. The way of life of many Eskimos has been revolutionized by the coming of the Europeans, but the people in more remote districts still follow the old ways. No Eskimos have avoided change completely. Everywhere the hunter's bow has given way to the rifle, and stone axes have been replaced with steel.

Originally, the Eskimos were all nomadic, maritime hunters, following wherever game took them. They hunted the polar bear for food and fur, the walrus for food and ivory, and the seal for food and just about everything else that they needed. They used seal skin for tents, clothing, boots, and boat coverings, and seal oil for cooking, light, and heat. Seal meat was the staple food. Where they found caribou, they ate the meat and wore the skins. They made dog harnesses from the hides and thread from the sinews. Nothing was wasted.

As in every other society except our own, the men were (and are) the



breadwinners while the women stuck to their boot chewing. Here is just one more lesson we can learn from the Eskimos.

The men were great hunters, very brave and very patient. They had to be; they carried no unemployment insurance. Not every man can meet a polar bear without sweating palms, not even when he has a high-powered rifle in them. The Eskimo hunter took his bear with bow and arrow, and sometimes at spear point. Today, the rifle has made the hunter's job easier, but he still uses many of the old techniques. He still waits for hours in paralyzing cold by a seal's breathing hole in the ice. In the spring he still stalks seals basking by their holes in the old way: running straight at the seal when it isn't looking, crouching down to look like a fellow seal when the animal looks his way, and so getting within rifle shot.

The Eskimo is also a fisherman, but only by necessity. Fishing is not so manly a sport as chasing polar bears. He doesn't greatly relish fish anyway, but it's good food for the dogs, and it's handy to have a supply when the hunting is poor.

The Eskimos who still subsist by hunting and trapping live and travel in small family groups. This is necessary because normally there is not enough game in one district to support a large tribe. In winter they hunt far out on the sea ice. They build igloos just as their ancestors did, but in spring when the family mansion begins to melt around their ears, they make one concession to the advance of southern culture and move into canvas tents instead of the old-fashioned skin ones.

### **They're Good Party Types**

The Eskimo is a sociable man and a family man. Inhospitability is unthinkable, and the stranger entering his igloo can expect a reception that lacks nothing except a red carpet and ticker tape. The host would provide these if he could. A guest's arrival is a rare occasion



in an isolated camp, and usually means a detailed exchange of the latest news (possibly weeks old, it doesn't matter) and the swapping of hunting yarns, etcetera, far into the night. There may be family singing accompanied by a concertina or guitar; the Eskimos love western and hillbilly songs. Whether it is a piece of seal tenderloin or the lump of pork from a can of pork and beans, the guest can be certain of the choicest morsel in the dinner pot. If he stays the night, he'll get the centre spot on the sleeping platform; it's the warmest.

### **Co-operation Is More than a Word**

By our standards, Eskimo children might seem to be spoiled. They are never punished, not by so much as a harsh word. But they thrive on affection and gentle instruction, and grow to be responsible citizens in their community. They are given responsibilities around the home at an early age, and so learn the spirit of co-operation that is absolutely necessary if life is to go on in a small and isolated settlement.

This spirit of cheerful co-operation is one of the outstanding features of the Eskimo character, and makes them fine team-mates on any job. Keen intelligence has been bred in them for generations. Only an intelligent and energetic people could live the way they have lived. They are natural mechanics. Once shown how, most Eskimos can easily operate or even tear down a complicated piece of machinery. What's more, they can put it back together again. Their cheerfulness, their intelligence, and their knowledge of the country make the Eskimos good people to have on your side when you are in the Arctic.

Virtually all Eskimos are Christians, whether they live among kayaks or bulldozers. Both Anglican and Roman Catholic missionaries have been among them for many years, and all adhere to one faith or the other. The old witch doctors, who once were a powerful influence in Eskimo society, have gone. While there may still be some belief in magic and spirits, it is limited chiefly to the more remote hunting bands. It is a tribute to the optimism of the Eskimo that even in pre-Christian times he believed as much in good spirits as in evil ones.

## Eskimo Sculpture

One of the most brilliant achievements of the Eskimos is their sculpture. Nobody knows when they began to carve in stone, or how a people so hard-pressed to survive ever found the time or inspiration. The art of carving is ancient. Some stone figures found near Igloolik, off the northeast coast of Melville Peninsula, are estimated to be at least 2,000 years old. Originally, the carvings may have had some religious meaning, but that is only a guess. Certainly they were believed to have magical powers. Even now, some carvers think that making figures of animals will bring them luck in hunting. An Eskimo may carve the figure of a valuable game animal that has become scarce, in the hope that somehow this will increase the animal's numbers or lure it back to the hunting grounds.

Carving for its own sake is a more powerful motive. The Eskimo sculptor has the same urge to create that drives artists the world over. He has powers of observation developed as a hunter and he is gifted with great imagination. Without any lessons, without any tools except those used in his daily work, the Eskimo artist is creating carvings from native stone and ivory that are being acclaimed by critics from central Europe to the Far East. As his fame spreads and a market is created for his work, the Eskimo sculptor has a new motive. But he takes too much



pride in his carving to let the urge for quick profits lower the quality of his art. He isn't likely to become a mass-producer, because he can see no point in making two figures the same.

Carving is a man's job, and few women attempt it. But the women find time (in spite of cooking, raising children, and essential sewing) to ornament the family clothes with delicate needle-work and seal skin cut-outs that show real artistic ability.

### "Industrial Revolution" in the Arctic

In the western Arctic and particularly around the Mackenzie delta, many Eskimos have been lured away from their hunting economy by the invasion from the south. The impact of southern civilization is also

making itself felt in the eastern Arctic. Some of the people of southern Baffin Island now live in frame houses, own cook stoves, and operate trucks or bulldozers for a living. And the day is fast coming when sales of refrigerators to Eskimos may no longer be a joke, but a fact.

Eskimo life has been changing gradually since the days of the first Arctic explorers, but change has come very quickly in the last 10 or 12 years. Fur traders started the Eskimos trapping the white fox



over a century ago. Before that, they never dreamed of trapping and thought the fox was just a nuisance. But if the crazy foreigners wanted to give them good cooking pots and rifles for worthless fox hides, the Eskimos were glad to oblige. The coming of manufactured goods in general, and of the rifle in particular, speeded the change. Game had never been too plentiful, and over the years the rifle helped to create a real scarcity in some areas. The time came when game was decreasing, while the human population was increasing. Then the bottom fell out of the fur market; the future of the Eskimo economy looked bleak.

Just when things began to look their worst, a surge of development activity struck the North in the years following the Second World War. New airfields and defence installations meant new employment opportunities for the Eskimos. A nickel mine was opened at Rankin Inlet and a number of Eskimos are now working there. Others are working in weather and radio stations. At the same time, the Canadian Government has taken steps to create a more diversified economy, and therefore a more secure economy, for the Eskimos. New industries, including boat-building, tanning, and the marketing of eider-down, are being encouraged and are beginning to thrive. Experiments are being made in reindeer husbandry on the Mackenzie delta, and in poultry farming on Ungava Bay.

### **The Eskimos' Three Basic Needs**

Along with the need for a secure economy, the Eskimos have two related needs. They need better education and they need better health if they are to take full advantage of the new opportunities. New schools are opening, and a new vocational training programme has been launched. The Dominion government's campaign to improve the health of the people is producing results. This is partly because of health education, and partly because efforts are being made to discover and treat disease promptly.

None of this means that the Eskimos are being pampered. Spoon-feeding is definitely out; they are simply being helped to help themselves. The Eskimos are not wards of the state and they are not being treated as wards. They are full Canadian citizens, and as citizens the day may come when Eskimo administrators will direct Arctic affairs and when an Eskimo will sit in Parliament at Ottawa.

### **WHO CONTROLS IT ?**

In 1870, just three years after Canada became a self-governing dominion, the new Canadian Government entered the Far North. In that year Great Britain transferred Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories to Canada; ten years later the remaining British lands in the Arctic Archipelago were also given to the Canadian Government.

Since international usage demands that claimed land must be occupied and administered, the Government has sent expeditions into

the North to map and survey the land, and to look after the people. In 1903, the first permanent stations of the North West Mounted Police (now the Royal Canadian Mounted Police) were established in the Arctic. After the First World War the number of R.C.M.P. posts grew. Lands as large and empty as the Canadian Arctic are considered occupied if officials of the occupying power travel over them from time to time. As a result, constables of the R.C.M.P. on northern police duty have taken some long and remarkable walks, often for more than 1,000 miles.

Since the Second World War, government activities have increased enormously in the Far North. New schools, new airfields, entire new town sites are being developed. Geological, topographical, and aerial surveys have been or are being completed. Large areas have been accurately mapped for the first time. In summer, ships plow through the ice-floes bringing supplies to distant weather stations and medical attention to isolated Eskimo groups. In all seasons, aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force criss-cross the Barrens and the bush, the lakes and the frozen seas.

### **How the North is Governed**

Today, the North is divided into two political and administrative units—the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories. The residents of both territories are represented in Parliament at Ottawa. Furthermore, each territory has its own government, known as the Council of the Yukon Territory and the Council of the Northwest Territories. There are differences between the two councils, but here it is enough to say that both have legislative powers similar to those of a provincial government, except that they do not control natural resources. Canada as a whole, through the Federal Government, contributes to the opening of the north because the territories, being in an early stage of development, do not have the money or the people to make the large initial investment that is necessary before many of the riches of the country can be tapped.

Like any province, the Yukon Territory has its own civil service which administers the ordinances of the Yukon Territorial Council.

Since there is no separate civil service for the Northwest Territories, officers of the Federal Government act as territorial civil servants.

The government's main agency to perform these administrative functions is the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, sometimes known simply as the Department of Northern Affairs when one refers to its northern work. Many other Dominion departments are concerned with the North, in fields such as health, policing, weather forecasting, radio communications, surveying, and so on. Northern Affairs is the co-ordinating Department and is mainly responsible for development plans.

### **The Northern Service Officer**

Northern Affairs officials are working throughout the North, in such jobs as teaching, administration and social work. One of the most interesting jobs is that of the Northern Service Officer, the field representative of the Department whose special concern is the Eskimos. His job is to help the Eskimos during their transition from hunting and trapping to wage employment. The NSOs live among the Eskimos, particularly in communities where their way of life is changing most rapidly. These are Aklavik, Cambridge Bay, Frobisher Bay, Fort Chimo, Churchill, Baker Lake and Great Whale River. And there are two NSOs on the DEW Line.

The NSO advises the people on the new problems they are meeting. He assists employers in placing the new wage earners in satisfactory jobs, and he makes recommendations to Ottawa on means to improve the life of the Eskimos. The Eskimos governed themselves quite satisfactorily until we went north, applying our laws and moral codes. Like every primitive people suddenly faced with external authority, the Eskimos were robbed of their initiative. Now, steps are being taken to give the Eskimos a greater voice in their own affairs. One of the most important jobs of the NSO is encouraging the Eskimos to make their own decisions, and helping them to develop local forms of democracy on a community level. The NSOs hope that eventually, when the change to the new way of life is completed, their job will be unnecessary. Meanwhile, their role is very important. It calls for

patience, diplomacy, ingenuity, and a genuine liking and concern for these primitive people in transition. If you want to learn more about the country and its people, why not get acquainted with the NSO in your district? If there are Eskimos living where you are stationed, he'll be around from time to time.

## Law in the Territories

All residents in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, whether permanent or temporary, whether Canadian or non-Canadian, are equally subject to the laws both of the territories and of the Government of Canada. In the back of this pamphlet are summaries of a few territorial laws which may be of particular interest.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police enforce federal and territorial law throughout the North. There are about thirty RCMP detachments in the Northwest Territories, spread from Aklavik to eastern Baffin Island, and north as far as 800 miles above the Arctic Circle. Officers of the RCMP do not, of course, try cases themselves. There are justices of the peace at Aklavik and Frobisher Bay. There is a judge at Yellowknife who periodically tours the Arctic and there is a magistrate who holds court in and out of Frobisher Bay. The course of justice is a good deal speedier than 50 years ago when accused persons might have to wait a year for a hearing.



The work of the RCMP goes far beyond law enforcement, and constables may be called on to do anything from census-taking to midwifery. They are tax collectors, game wardens, postmasters, and fisheries inspectors. On behalf of the Department of Northern Affairs,

they distribute to eligible Eskimos relief, family allowances, and old age pensions. Needless to say, the "Mounties" are very important people in the North, and they have won their fame the hard way.

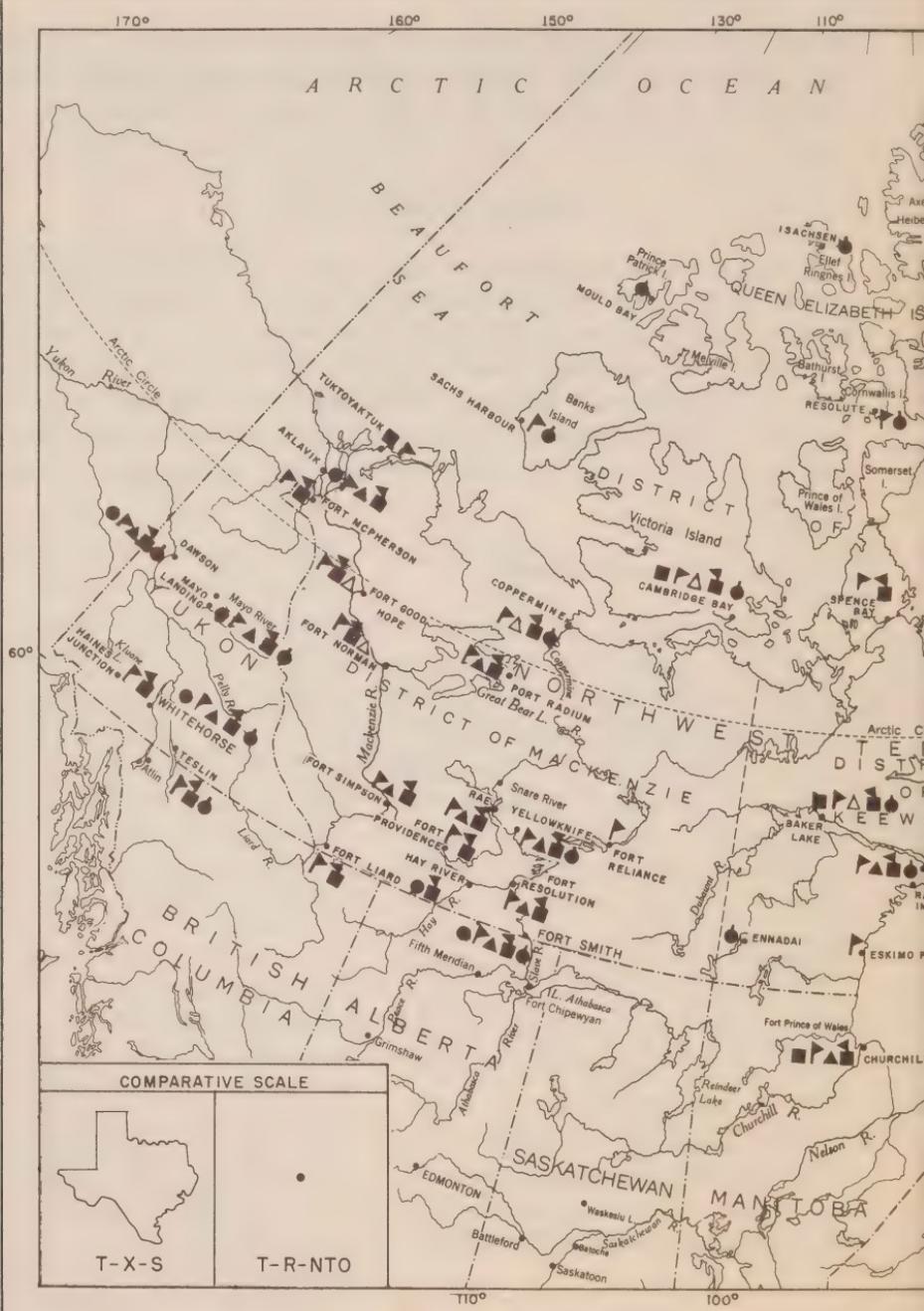
## WHAT GOOD IS IT?

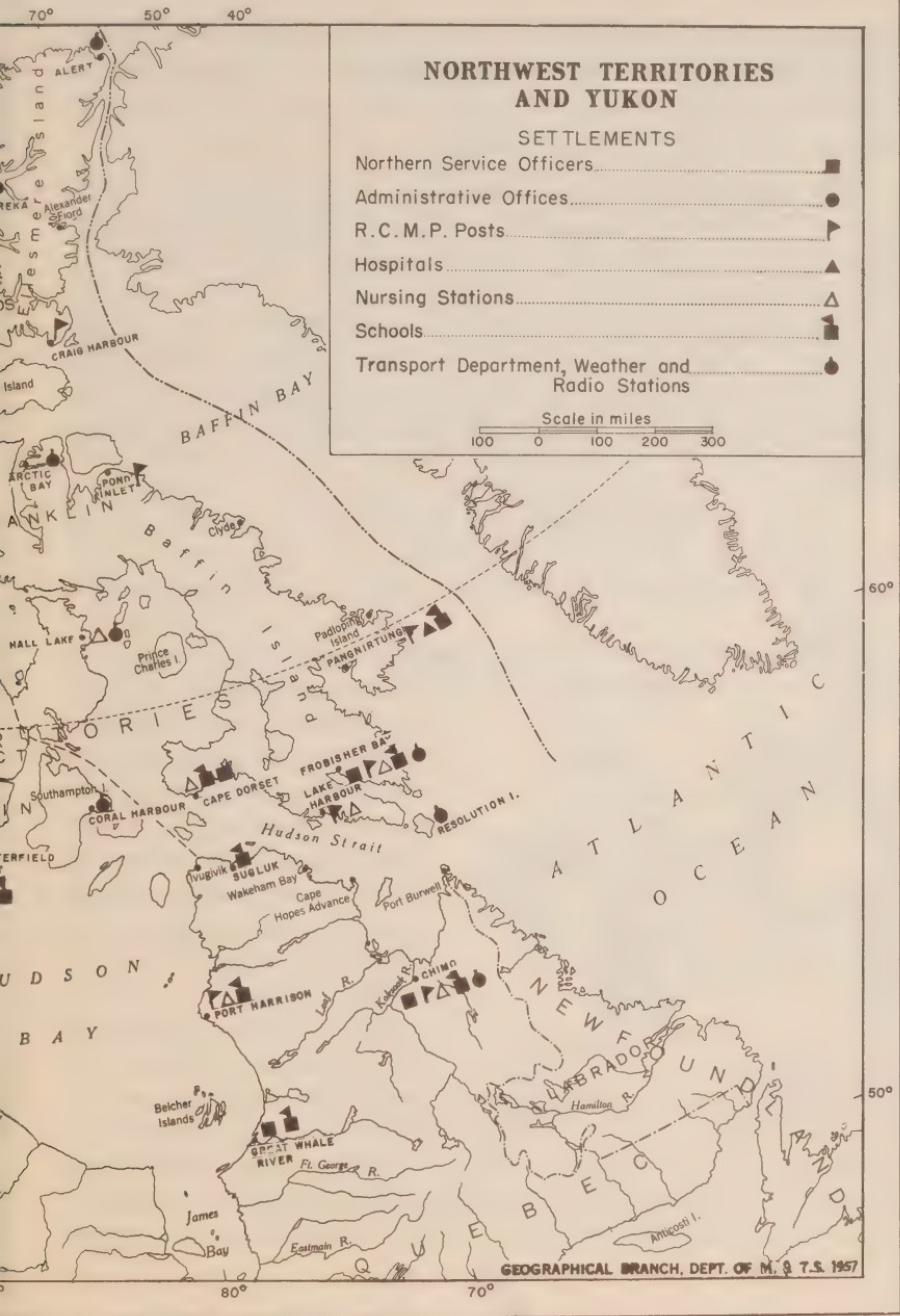
A good deal has been said about past and present government activity in the North. What is the point of it all? Of course, the welfare of thousands of Eskimos is important from both a moral and a practical viewpoint, and obviously weather stations and defence installations have to be maintained. But what about all the surveying, the mapping, the aerial photography, the scientific research? Is it worth the money and effort? What good are a million and a half square miles of bush and tundra?

### Resources of the Territories

These questions can be answered almost with one word—minerals. While you read this, you may be sitting on a gold mine. Not just gold, but nearly every known mineral (many of them much more important than gold) underlies those "barren" rocks. No part of the Arctic is written off as a major source of minerals, and there may come a day when some of Canada's biggest mines will be among the igloos. The government is not trying to extract the minerals; that has been and will continue to be the job of private enterprise. But it is the government's job to encourage and assist private enterprise by mapping, surveying, and the other related activities that it undertakes. Without accurate maps, prospectors would have trouble finding themselves, to say nothing of minerals. Without geological surveys and aerial photography, mining companies would have difficulty knowing where to explore. And in the future the government's biggest help







will probably be in transportation. Every year now millions of dollars are being spent by businessmen to scour the rocks for the richest mines of tomorrow. These men don't spend their money for amusement; they know the future value of the north.

And minerals aren't the whole story. Vast reserves of water power are there to be harnessed. For example, the headwaters of the Yukon River are estimated to have a potential of four and a half million horsepower. That is more than a quarter of the maximum total output of all hydro-electric plants now operating in Canada. A large water power potential around Great Slave Lake should have tremendous value in developing the mineral resources there. Incidentally, the value of commercial fisheries on Great Slave Lake is already about \$1,500,000 annually.

Large stands of good timber occur in the Yukon and in the southwestern part of the Northwest Territories, particularly in the Mackenzie River lowlands. A number of sawmills are operating now.

While agriculture is out of the question in the High Arctic, there are more than two million acres of arable land in sub-Arctic regions.



So far farming is limited, largely because markets are too distant. Nevertheless, grain is grown successfully in the Yukon and in the Mackenzie Valley there are fine gardens as far north as the Arctic Circle and beyond. Potatoes, cabbages, carrots, and beans thrive even in places where the permafrost is just a few inches below the surface of the ground. Some record-sized vegetables have been grown,

making the crops of many southern gardens appear puny by comparison. In fact, some vegetables grow even larger than they do in the tropics.

In the long nightless days of summer, growth is practically uninterrupted, and there may be as much growing time in one day as in two ordinary days in the tropics.

Permafrost may be a benefit to northern gardeners. Very little rain or snow falls in the North, and water might become scarce in summer if the permafrost didn't prevent it from seeping away. It has been said that much of the North would be a lifeless desert if it weren't for the permafrost. In terms of annual rainfall, much of the North actually is a desert—one of the largest in the world. Average yearly precipitation (both rain and snow) in most parts of the Arctic is between 8 and 10 inches. In the Sahara Desert, the annual rainfall is 1 to 8, and in the Gobi Desert of Central Asia it's 1 to 12. On the western prairies, from 12 to 20 inches of rain and snow falls yearly. By contrast, precipitation in southern Ontario is 30 to 40 inches, and in coastal British Columbia it's 100 inches or more.

### Mining

Mining has been an industry in the sub-Arctic for more than half a century, ever since the Yukon gold rush in 1898. During the rush, a party of Yukon-bound prospectors travelling overland stumbled on gold deposits around Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories, but they were too far-gone with Yukon fever to stop, and the gold they found remained untouched until the 1930's. A major rush developed in the Great Slave Lake area in 1935, and three years later the first gold mine in the Territories went into production at Yellowknife Bay. Today there are three gold mines near Yellowknife, all producing ore of the highest grade.



Gold is important, but base metals hold the greatest promise for the future. Lead and zinc are being mined in the Yukon. More lead and zinc—much more—is waiting to be mined at Pine Point on the south shore of Great Slave Lake. The Pine Point deposit is one of the largest and richest of its kind on the North American continent. Much of this high grade ore is so close to the surface it can be scraped up with a bulldozer, and all that is lacking is transportation to move it to market. Other rarer minerals known to be in the same district include tungsten, tantalum, beryllium, and lithium. Port Radium, on Great Bear Lake, is one of the world's important sources of uranium. The mine is on the very edge of the treeline, and only thirty miles from the Arctic Circle. Silver and cobalt are found in the same area. There is a producing nickel mine far above the tree-line at Rankin Inlet, on the northwest coast of Hudson Bay.

Oil has been extracted at Norman Wells, on the lower Mackenzie, for more than thirty years. There are excellent prospects of more oil on the Yukon's Eagle Plain, and in the general region of Great Slave Lake. There is even evidence of oil on Ellef Ringnes Island, 800 miles above the Arctic Circle. Geologists think that a great north-south belt of oil-bearing rock formations may extend from southern Alberta through the Mackenzie Basin to the most northerly islands of the Arctic Archipelago. If this is true (and there is good evidence to support the belief), the Far North may become a new Middle East in terms of oil production.

Geologists have been investigating remote regions for many years, but in the last few years even the prospectors—thoroughly practical men who are not the least bit interested in studying a rock formation for its own sake—are moving higher and higher into the Arctic. They have found large iron deposits on the south coast of Baffin Island. More iron has been found on the Belcher Islands in Hudson Bay. Mining interests are preparing to spend millions of dollars exploring copper and nickel deposits along the Coppermine River in the Central Arctic. Gypsum has been found in huge quantities in the Archipelago. There is lead on the Arctic coast and coal on the Mackenzie delta.

Not only have the known riches scarcely been scratched, but considering the vast area of the North, prospecting has just begun. What still waits to be discovered may eclipse everything found so far. For example, a belt of rocks of a type known to be rich in base metals extends northeast from Lake Athabasca for 500 miles to Rankin Inlet. Only scattered sections of this belt have been prospected, but the indications are that lead, zinc, nickel, iron, and half a dozen other minerals are there in quantities large enough to be exploited. Here is a fact that is even more significant: at least two-thirds of the area of the Northwest Territories is occupied by the rocks of the Pre-Cambrian Shield, one of the largest and richest geological regions on earth. The Shield has yielded immense wealth along its more assessible southern fringe; there is reason to believe that it is just as rich in minerals in the Far North. In fact, prospectors and geologists find more and more evidence to support these high hopes every time they are on the ground. No matter where they go, from southern Hudson Bay to the highest of the High Arctic, from Ungava to the Yukon plateau, the mineral wealth is waiting.

### Transportation—The Big Problem

The big problem in seizing this mineral wealth is transportation over enormous distances where as yet there are no roads or railways. The southern Yukon is crossed by the Alaska Highway, and Whitehorse has a short railway running to the sea at Skagway. But in all the Northwest Territories there is not a single mile of steel. The Mackenzie River is a great navigable waterway flowing more than 1,000 miles through some of the richest lands in the Territories to the Arctic Ocean. The



Mackenzie has played a great role in northern development and will continue its role for a long time to come. Each summer, many thousands of tons of freight move up and down the big river and its tributaries, the Slave and Athabasca. But water transportation is slow and the navigation season is short. The Mackenzie is frozen for eight months of the year, and it will not be able to cope with all transportation needs of its drainage basin when northern resources reach a stage of greater development.

Without air transport, the North would be little changed from a thousand years ago. Many northern industries and the communities they support could not even exist without aircraft and the men who fly them. The day of the colourful old bush pilot who flew by the seat of his pants hasn't gone entirely, but it's going. Now, better aircraft, better navigation methods, more and better airfields (and better pants) means safer lifelines for isolated settlements and vital industries. But mere lifelines are not enough in a country bursting to expand. Transportation by air will remain important, and will grow as the country grows, but cheaper means than aircraft must be found to meet the needs of the industrial North of the future.

The North needs railways. Its most urgent need is a railway from the end of steel in Alberta, to the south shore of Great Slave Lake. A steel link with the south would shorten the river route to the Arctic and would be equivalent to adding a month to the navigation season; much more, it would mean the differences between rich mines and fallow rocks. Railways will come in time, and when they do, the North will boom. (Big changes are expected in the next five or 10 years.)

### **The Future**

Some predict a network of highways, and towns or cities rising from the empty tundra. In the farthest north, development is bound to be slower owing to the short navigation season and the distances from large markets, but the resources are great enough to overcome the problems. The North's possibilities are almost limitless. More and more private industry will move into the country, especially as the demand for minerals rises in the world outside. It will rise, for the

world's population is growing by thirty million a year. (It has risen by about 1,100 since you started reading this pamphlet.) New minerals must be found to supply this new population. New minerals must be found to supply people from Bangor to Bangkok wanting higher living standards. Where in the world are there enough minerals to supply them? In Canada's North.



What's to stop the North? Not climate. People who can live happily through Manitoba or Saskatchewan or North Dakota winters shouldn't be discouraged by climate in the Arctic. It's a curious fact that civilization has been expanding northward ever since the dawn of history. It began in North America, in Mexico and Yucatan, and in the Old World along the valleys of the Euphrates and the Nile. For thousands of years, civilization has been converging from both sides of the world toward a common centre. That centre is the Arctic.

## WHAT TO DO ?



tourists *do* come, for the finest fishing in the world.) In all probability you didn't come here as a tourist, and the chances are that most of your time will be occupied by your work. But you can expect to have some free time, so why not take advantage of it to have a look around? If you like photography, there are plenty of subjects for your camera. In many areas, there is a considerable variety of plant and animal life.

You don't have to look in your toothpaste to find chlorophyll. Arctic poppies, fireweed, purple loco-weed, and many other colourful flowers relieve the monotony of the tundra during the short summers. Arctic cotton is a common plant, so named because its tufts look very much like real cotton. Mosses, liverworts, and lichens form a thick, springy mat, known as tundra sponge, over soil and rocks alike. Dull-white caribou moss, one of the main foods of plant-eating animals in the North, is found almost everywhere. Many kinds of lichens can be eaten by man. Blueberries and alpine cranberries are common in many places. It is an interesting fact that there are no poisonous plants in the Arctic, and none that are protected by spines or thorns. There are a few parasitic plants, like the pink-flowered lousewort which lives on the roots of other species.

While some districts seem to have virtually no wildlife, others exhibit a surprising variety of animals and birds. The game preserve on the broad plain around Amadjuak Lake on Baffin Island, to name

The Arctic isn't yet a tourist's paradise, and you won't find much about it in the vacation guide books. There are several reasons for this. Hotel accommodation is limited and bus schedules are unreliable, and it is a peculiarity of southern palates to prefer filet mignon to seal steaks. (But every year a few more

only one area, resembles the African veldt not only in appearance, but in the abundance of its wildlife during the summer season. The animals here have rarely seen a man, and they are amazingly tame. Gulls and huge black and white terns soar overhead, often flying a few feet from the intruder to view him with beady eyes. Arctic owls are not so friendly, but they can be seen from a distance, their white feathers standing out in sharp contrast to the sombre, grey-green hue of the rolling landscape. Mother ptarmigans and their chicks can be approached within a few feet. If she senses danger, the mother ptarmigan clucks a signal to her chicks and they scurry in all directions, hiding under stones, moss, or any other cover they can find. Then, pretending she has a broken wing, the gifted old faker begins to flounder in ever-increasing circles, luring the stranger away from her brood. Other animals at Amadjuak are more naive, and even a caribou, if curiosity gets the best of him, will tag after a man (at a respectful distance, of course).

Lemmings (tail-less mice) are not very tame at Amadjuak, because owls and terns give them a hard time; in other areas, however, lemmings are so tame that they will eat from a man's hand. They can also be eaten from a man's hand, if he's hungry enough. Experts on Arctic survival say there is nothing like a main course of lemming followed by blueberries for dessert. If blueberries are scarce, you might try lemming meringue pie.

While on the subject of living off the country, here is a tip for all Arctic gourmets: if you are ever tempted to sample a dish of game, first be very, very certain that you are miles from camp and thoroughly lost. Game preserves cover large areas in the North, and even where there are no game preserves, temporary residents are not allowed to hunt unless they need food to survive. The RCMP are very touchy about this matter, and if you shoot anything from a muskrat to a muskox (except with a camera), be prepared with a very convincing story to tell the



constable when he calls around. Say you were starving and that you didn't know north from south. Furthermore, be ready to prove it. If you shoot a polar bear, you might try claiming self defence, or better still, drop dead—that will convince even the police that the situation was a trying one. Be certain, anyway, that you have a good lawyer, because the bear (although he doesn't know it) has some of the best



in the country. All the experts comfort us with the assurance that polar bears are not likely to be dangerous unless they are hungry. Then they can't bear to be molested. Besides, bears are not very common except in a few places like Resolute Bay, where they have been encountered fairly frequently.

There is a story about a cook at Resolute who, at the dark of noon one winter day, opened the door of the cook-house to dump some garbage. A big white animal, standing seven feet tall without shoes, breathed on the top of the cook's head and gave a roar that shook the

pots in the pantry. The cook shut the door, being somewhat alarmed because the visitor's breath smelled strongly of sour seal meat. Then he casually reached for a rifle and pumped eight shots through the door. Dead silence followed. Encouraged, the cook peeked out. Nothing in sight. But soon the cook-house was swarming with curious citizens demanding to know what all the ruckus was about. Nobody believed the cook. He tried to show them

the tracks in the snow, but the tracks had been obliterated in the rush to the cook-house door. He just couldn't convince anybody of his story. A month later, he was moved south on compassionate grounds.

But don't worry, because bears spend most of their time hunting far out on the sea ice, and it's only when seals are scarce that they call at the mess halls for handouts.

Returning for a moment to the subject of animal photography, you might have a chance to stalk Arctic owls (sometimes called Great Snowy Owls) with your camera. The owl is shy, but he is somewhat blind on bright days, and then it is not too hard to sneak up on him as he sits motionless on a large boulder. An animal that is not so hard to approach, particularly in winter when he may hang around the garbage dump, is the white fox. But the white fox in winter is not exactly photogenic.

You'll have to keep your eyes peeled for more than photogenic subjects when you're trudging on the tundra. Most important, watch where you're going and don't get lost. Every bump in the ground looks like the last one, and if you're not careful, you can end up

travelling in ever-diminishing circles till you disappear (you know where). Judging distances on the tundra can be a problem at any time of year, and particularly in winter. A twig at ten feet can look like a tree a mile away. Even when the sun is below the horizon the light can be bright, and at times like these there aren't any shadows. A man on foot may stumble into a fifteen-foot snowdrift (or walk off a cliff) without even seeing it.

### **How About Fishing ?**

If you like fishing and you are lucky enough to be in the right place (near a tidal river) at the right time (after the spring break-up), try your luck with Arctic char (*AFTER* you get a licence from the RCMP). The char is a member of the salmon family, delicious and a good fighter. Fishing him is a rare treat, because the char is not found below the treeline and very few sport fishermen have ever tackled him. Those who have usually paid thousands of dollars for the privilege. The char ranges in size from three to ten pounds, and he'll respond enthusiastically to a red and white plug or spoon. Don't waste your time with dark-coloured lures, because the char just can't be bothered with them. Spawning char travel up coastal rivers by the tens of thousands in July. The best place to fish them is at the base of a falls or rapids at the head of a tidal reach, where they congregate and wait for the rising tide to give them a boost upstream. And just because they're there in thousands doesn't always make the fishing easy. Char can be temperamental, and of course in spring they have other things than food on their minds.

Grayling and lake trout are plentiful in many inland waters, and they can provide plenty of excitement for the most seasoned fisherman. Again, the fish can be temperamental but no experienced trout fisherman will be discouraged by a fickle grayling.

### **Glacial Left-Overs**

For the amateur geologist there is no end to interesting sights in the Arctic. The region has emerged from the ice age only recently, in terms of geological time, and here you can see what the greater

part of North America must have looked like as the ice retreated at some time or another in the last several thousands of years. Thousands of square miles have practically no soil because it was all scraped up and pushed south by the glaciers. (That's a curious difference between us and the Russians. The last ice age left their Arctic with plenty of dirt.) The melting ice here created tens of thousands of lakes of all sizes, with the result that northern Canada has more lakes than all the rest of the world combined. Some of the lakes have no outlets, and some have two or three outlets flowing in different directions. Many are perched high on the tops of hills. The entire drainage pattern is a crazy quilt that seems to have been woven by nature gone mad. From the ground, and better still from the air, you can see the huge gouges and mile-long scratches carved by the glaciers in solid rock. Great boulders, some as big as bungalows, were left teetering on the tundra when the ice retreated. From a distance they sometimes look like trees. Drumlins, eskers, and moraines are other glacial left-overs that add variety to the scenery. But the strangest formations, called pingoes, are found in the Mackenzie delta. These are huge bubble-like domes, sometimes 100 feet high, and the lower delta is dotted with them. They are covered with mud and moss, but underneath they are solid ice, pure and crystal clear. Nobody knows what caused the pingoes. They seem to have sprouted from old lake bottoms, like milk squeezing from a frozen bottle—an analogy as near to an explanation as the scientists have been able to come.

## BUSHED ?

This small booklet has touched upon only a few of the interesting facts about the North, and quite likely you'll discover many more. Few places on earth have a more colourful past or a more intriguing present, and none has a more promising future. Realizing this, you may want to read some more on the subject. In that case, ask the NSO in your district if he has any written material, or failing that, write to the Department of Northern Affairs in Ottawa. But if you still think the North is dull, then brother, you're bushed. You've been in the South too long.

## APPENDIX I

### SOME HINTS TO THE WISE

Remember when you met your first Bongo-Bongan? You scarcely knew how to begin the conversation. Should you shake hands, or kiss on both cheeks?

With your first Eskimo it's likely to be rather different. He may be the gentleman who asks you politely when you leave the 'plane if he might take your picture with his new Leica with the soft focus lens. You might, of course, meet him and his family as they come from a seal hunt. In any case, don't get the idea that he's going to be thrilled and astonished at the sight of you.

Whether he's your first Eskimo or you've seen all 11,002 of them, there are a few things worth remembering. First, the Eskimo is a full Canadian citizen, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities that Canadian citizenship entails. Secondly, you're just a visitor here, and this is the Eskimo's home. He's glad to see you, for to the Eskimo the southerners, though they're sometimes crazy, are usually interesting. He likes being friendly, and the average Eskimo is about the friendliest guy you'll ever find. But don't push it too far; whether you're wandering around on the most desolate plain you've ever seen, or whether you're in his igloo, this is his homeland and you are his guest.

#### Tips on Arctic Etiquette

Let's take this home visiting business. In the south, nobody with good manners barges into the home of the neighbour down the street to satisfy his curiosity about the colour of the bedroom ceiling. He waits till he's asked. People with good manners do the same in the Arctic, and those without them just don't get along.

You may not know the Eskimos very well, but you'll find an opportunity, either with an English speaking Eskimo or with a government officer, to say that you would like to pay a call at an Eskimo home. Chances are that if the request is reasonably made the Eskimo family will be glad to see you. When you enter you will shake hands

with everyone, and whether or not they speak English, say "Hello". If you have an interpreter, ask the sort of questions you might ask a neighbour when you've just moved to a new street.

Whatever you do, don't make your Eskimo friends feel that they are some sort of curiosity. They may look funny to you at first, but remember that you look just as funny to them. If you are half as friendly as they are, you'll get used to each other in no time. In many ways we are a good deal queerer than the Eskimos, but we respect each other's habits and ways of life. The Eskimos, too, deserve some respect. After all, they've managed to live in this country for 2,000 years—without electric heating pads.

You will see many more Eskimos outside their homes. If they don't speak English, say "Hello" anyway, without waiting for formal introductions. If they do speak English, by all means talk to them and ask them about their way of life, remembering that they are not curiosities, or at least no more so than Germans or Englishmen.

### No Room for Romeos

Here comes the touchy subject. What about talking to the Eskimo ladies, or even—girls? When you meet them on main street, or when they are visiting your camp site, it would be impolite to ignore them. But don't get any ideas about dating the girls of the Arctic. In some communities and in some circumstances there may be community dances where everyone gets together, and that's just fine. Taking out the Eskimo girls individually, however, is looked on with extreme disfavour, and is the easiest way to get a fast, no-expense-paid trip south. Let's just say that this sort of practice is too open to misunderstanding. We think you know what we mean, and if you don't, take our word for it.

### Don't Underestimate the Eskimos

After you get to know the Eskimos, you'll begin to realize that they have just as high an IQ as the rest of us. There's an awful lot they don't know about our strange world, but in their world they are

a lot smarter than we are. The Eskimo is curious to learn about the strange new things coming into his land. Most Eskimos are wizards with machinery. With very little teaching, they can take down or put together anything from alarm clocks to bulldozers. If you're working on anything less complicated than a radar set, you might like to give the Eskimo who's looking over your shoulder some idea of what it's all about. He'll pick it up quickly, and he could be a great help to you.

### **You Can Help**

Until very recently, Eskimos had no chance for any formal education. The children are now going to school, together with some of the adults. But the men are more likely to learn from the teaching you give them and the examples you set. With patience and understanding, you can do a lot for these people. And patience is important. The average Eskimo is so agreeable and so anxious to please that he will often say that he understands something when he doesn't. He'll think he understands at the time. But remember the problem of language, and be very careful to make your instructions perfectly clear.

Remember, too, that when teaching them anything you are taking on a heavy responsibility. For example, you may be telling an Eskimo about the outside world which is so familiar to you but which the Eskimo has never seen. Just stop a moment and wonder if this great big life of beer and skittles that you're telling him about isn't a rather distorted picture. The Eskimo who talks to you about these things places faith in what you say. Don't let him down.

### **Trading is Out**

Sometime when you are talking with an Eskimo you may get the idea that the little woman back home would like nothing more than a caribou parka to wear on trips to the supermarket. Just take it easy; trading with the Eskimos is poor business. There is the occasional visitor to the North who thinks he's pretty sharp in his deals with the locals. It's not really so clever to get the better of a fellow who has only a limited understanding of the meaning of money or of the value of outside goods. Besides, it isn't always the Eskimos who are fooled.

So don't trade with the Eskimos. That too can cause misunderstanding and get you into trouble. If you want something Eskimo that isn't available at the local store, talk to the NSO or a member of the RCMP. They can help you, and they'll ensure that the price is fair to all concerned. Then you can never be criticised.

In any situation where you are dealing with Eskimos, just remember that the man in the tin hut is much like the man in the igloo. Remember the days in Bongo Bongo, when you'd have been highly insulted if they'd put you in a bamboo cage for the benefit of curious passers-by, or if you'd found yourself paying ten prices for a rotten coconut. Fortunately the Bongo-Bongan treated you as an honoured guest. You were grateful, and did what you could to show your gratitude.

The Eskimo is a decent fellow too; just be careful to deserve his friendship.

## *APPENDIX II*

### **PROFITS AND LAWS**

Every resident and visitor in the Northwest Territories comes under both federal and territorial law. Most of us know enough about federal law to keep out of trouble most of the time, but there are a few points of territorial law that are worth investigating. A complete outline of laws in the Territories would fill many booklets like this one, but you may profit, quite literally, by knowing a few of them.

#### **Wild Life**

In spite of occasional rumours to the contrary, it is possible to drink in the Northwest Territories. Apart from a supply, there are two or three other requirements. If you wish to bring beer, wine, or liquor into the Territories, you must first get a permit. While you're at it, though, you'd better also ask for a permit to possess the liquor, since there are obvious disadvantages to importing it if you can't drink it.

To apply for these permits, write to the Department of Northern Affairs, Ottawa, telling them how much you wish to import, when and where. Permits to import and possess liquor or wine are free. The cost of a permit for beer is \$1.00 per case of 24 bottles. This you will, no doubt, remember to enclose in the form of money order, certified cheque, or cash. The money, by the way, goes to the Government of the Northwest Territories.

You might like to bear in mind that some employers do not allow anyone to drink or to have liquor on their premises. This is a matter for you and your employer to consider in amicable discussion. If your employer's viewpoint is negative, no doubt you would wish to save him the embarrassment of dealing with your cache—and you.

Your employer might have a licence to bring in the stuff and sell it to you. If you really want it, and plan on staying on good terms with the RCMP, don't forget to get your permit for possession.

And here's an important point. Not only is it illegal for any Eskimo to consume liquor, but it is illegal to sell or give liquor to him. In fact, it's against the law to take liquor into an Eskimo's home, with one exception: if the Eskimo is sharing a room in a bunkhouse with someone who is legally entitled to consume liquor, then you can have it in the room. But remember that it's not a good idea to embarrass an Eskimo by serving liquor in his presence. This sort of practice is not very polite, and it may lead to misunderstanding. Incidentally, the fine for serving liquor to an Eskimo can be as much as \$100 for the first offence. At the same time, there's a good chance of landing in jail.

## **Wildlife**

If you've been with us all the way, you know that hunting in the Arctic (assuming that you aren't an Eskimo) is strictly prohibited. Game was never very plentiful above the treeline, and now several species, particularly caribou and muskoxen, show signs of completely disappearing. Most Eskimos are still partly or wholly dependent on hunting and trapping, and their source of income has to be protected. That's why game laws in the Arctic are strict.

Hunting licences may be issued under certain circumstances to people with special qualifications. But if you had the qualifications, you'd know too much about the Arctic to be reading this booklet. Licences are sometimes granted to scientists who want to collect wildlife specimens for museums and universities. Or they may be granted to persons who have lived in the Northwest Territories for many years, who depend on hunting for a living, or who meet other requirements which the temporary visitor can hardly expect to fulfil.

Don't forget that the "no hunting" rule applies to more than big game. You can't hunt or trap fur-bearing animals of any kind, and you can't hunt birds or their eggs. Furthermore, there's a law against buying the meat of any game animal, or the meat or eggs of any game bird.

And in case you're tempted to take these regulations rather lightly, it may interest you to know that for even a minor violation of territorial game laws, the offender is liable to a fine up to \$500, or to imprisonment up to two months, or to both fine and imprisonment. For more

serious violations, the fines (and the jail terms) are stiffer. For example, the minimum fine for hunting musk-oxen is \$1,000, and the maximum is \$5,000. If the hunter can't pay, then he goes to jail for six months to a year. What's more, he may go to jail whether he pays the fine or not.

There's one exception to all this: if you are lost and starving, you can take what game you need to survive.

### **Exporting Furs**

Maybe you've been thinking how nice it would be to have a polar bear skin to impress the folks back home. Being a law-abiding sort, you wouldn't think of shooting a bear. You'd buy the skin of an animal that had been legally killed, of course. But there's one more thing to think about if you want to stay on the right side of the law. You must have a permit to export any furs out of the Territories. The permit doesn't cost anything, but to get it you must first pay a tax on each pelt exported. The tax on a polar bear skin is \$5.00. On other furs, taxes range from 10 cents to one dollar. You can pay the tax to the RCMP, who will provide you with the permit. Firms who process furs in the south must be able to prove that furs they are handling have had the tax paid on them, and will usually ask to see the receipt to protect themselves from the embarrassing attentions of the law. So don't lose your tax receipt, or later you will risk losing your fur and your reputation.

### **Archaeological Sites**

Very little is known about the history of the Eskimos for until recently they had no written language. The only way to trace their past is by studying ancient relics and the places where they are found. In this way, archaeologists are gradually fitting together the story of the North's people. Most of the work is done at the sites of ancient settlements and burial grounds, and everything depends on finding the sites undisturbed. For this reason, there are laws preventing unauthorized persons from tampering with them.

If you are near a place where relics have been found, don't let your urge to collect souvenirs tempt you to start digging. If you stumble

on a stone arrowhead, bone implement, or anything that looks like a relic of the past, you may be the discoverer of another important piece in this fascinating historical puzzle—a site that has never been explored. Just in case, report your find immediately to the RCMP or the NSO.

Under no circumstances do any digging on your own. Even the positions of relics in relation to each other are important, for they may be the products of different cultures. Relics from civilizations centuries apart are often found at the same site. In a famous discovery at Firth River, evidences of nine civilizations were found in one spot. If the scene of these ancient settlements had been disturbed by people who didn't know what they were doing, it might have been impossible for the archaeologists to sort out the pieces. So don't break the law, but give us your help in studying these ancient cultures, and in preserving their remains.

Of course, a qualified archaeologist can apply to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for a licence to excavate. But even the licensed scientist who digs with a serious purpose can move relics only under strict conditions. He can't just take them home to show his friends. On the contrary, he must deposit them in the National Museum of Canada, the Public Archives of Canada, or in some other public institution named by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories where they will be permanently available for study by other scientists and students. The maximum penalty for the unauthorized removal of relics is a fine of \$1,000 or six months in jail, or both.

### **Going into Business ?**

You may become so enthusiastic about the future prospects of the North that you'll want to start some kind of business venture. It's happened to people before! They're the ones driving Cadillacs across the tundra. If it happens to you, don't forget that you need a business licence. You may also be subject to the Workmen's Compensation laws. Write to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories telling him your plans. He will be interested; if you don't, the RCMP will.

## APPENDIX III

### YUKON TERRITORY: LAWS

#### **Game Regulations**

Hunting in the Yukon Territory is permitted under licence and during open seasons. The Yukon's big game season opens August 1st (except moose, August 15th) and closes November 30th in each year. A non-resident Canadian licence costs \$100.00, alien \$150.00, and entitles the holder to take the following game: one moose; one caribou either Woodland or migratory; one sheep, either White Dall (inter-grade) or Stone; one mountain goat, all of which must be male and over one year of age. Further, one grizzly bear, and either one black or brown bear. No trophy tax is charged, and free export permits must be obtained before any trophy or skins can be shipped out of the Territory. All non-resident hunters must be accompanied by a licensed Grade "A" or Grade "B" guide.

Spring bear hunting season opens May 1st and closes June 30th. Non-resident Canadian special bear licence costs \$25.00, non-Canadian \$50.00. This licence entitles the holder to take two grizzly bears and two black or brown bears.

The whole of the Yukon is designated as a registered trapline district. No person may register a trapline unless trapping is one of his main occupations. Registration of traplines is open only to residents of the Yukon and non-resident Canadian citizens.

#### **Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations**

Non-resident bird licence costs \$10.00, Canadian or non-Canadian. This licence entitles the holder to take the following: ruffed grouse (willow grouse) and blue grouse (open season September 1st to October 31st); ptarmigan, sharptailed grouse, franklin grouse and spruce grouse (open season September 1st to November 30th); bag limit 15 in the aggregate per day, and 30 in the aggregate for the open season; migratory birds in any one day, ducks 7, geese 5; rails and coots 25 for the open season. In any one season ducks, 100; geese

(including black brant) 25; non-resident possession limit, ducks 14; geese 10. (Guide optional).

### **Fishing Regulations**

Fishing Regulations in the Yukon Territory are under the Federal Department of Marine and Fisheries with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police administering the Regulations. Resident angling permit costs \$1.00, non-resident permit \$2.00. These can be obtained from Royal Canadian Mounted Police Detachments, or at Lodges along the Alaska Highway.

### **Territorial Lands Regulations**

Territorial Lands in the Yukon Territory may be acquired by lease or may be purchased after survey approved by the Surveyor General. Applications for land privileges may be made to the Agents of Territorial Lands at Whitehorse, Dawson, or Mayo, Y.T., from whom application forms and additional information may be obtained.

### **Mining and Prospecting**

Any person over eighteen years of age has the right, with certain reservations, to prospect and mine upon lands in the Yukon Territory where the right to mine minerals has not been alienated from the Crown. The fee for recording a claim is \$10.00. Copies of the Yukon Quartz and Placer Mining Acts, application forms and other mining information may be obtained from the Mining Recorders at Whitehorse, Dawson and Mayo, or the Commissioner of Yukon Territory at Whitehorse, or the Lands Division, Northern Administration and Lands Branch, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa, Canada.

### **Liquor Regulations**

Liquor stores are operated under the Yukon Liquor Ordinance at the main centres of population. Liquor and beer is also sold in licensed Cocktail Lounges and Beer Taverns. Arrangements have been made whereby Canteens are operated by the Company in charge of the DEW Line for the sale of beer at such Canteens as they establish at their points of operation.

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